

HEIRS OF LEVI AND MARY STONE.

[To accompany bill H. R. 603.]

DECEMBER 12, 1856.

Mr. WOODRUFF, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Levi Stone, beg leave to report :

That the petitioner, in his application for pension, states, under oath, that he served seven or eight months as private in the revolutionary war, commencing in March, 1775. After this term of service expired, he was promised by John Wood, *assistant deputy quartermaster general*, a commission as captain, provided he would raise a company of artificers. That he accordingly did raise a company of about forty, and was regularly commissioned its captain. Said company was stationed at Danbury, Connecticut, and he served as captain of the same for *two years and eight months*; that all orders which were addressed to him, were addressed as *captain*; and that he received the pay and wages for that grade of service, and at the termination of his service he was regularly discharged. In support of the truth of his statement, the judge of the court, before whom his statement is made, certifies to his credibility from his personal knowledge.

In addition to this, the affidavits of several persons are presented, all of whom *served under him*, and are pensioned for this very service as artificers.

Daniel Stone swears that he well knew Levi Stone, and knows that he was captain of the corps of artificers stationed at Danbury, Connecticut; that Captain Stone entered the service in March, 1777, and served as such for a period of *two years and eight months*; that he served as private of artificers a greater part of the time under Captain Stone, &c.

Uriah De Forrest, a revolutionary pensioner, swears that in 1777 (April or May) he enlisted in the service of the United States, and served as an artificer at Danbury, Connecticut, in the company commanded by Captain Levi Stone; that he is well acquainted with said Captain Stone, and that he never heard it doubted that he served as a regularly commissioned captain.

Samuel Wildman, a revolutionary pensioner, swears that he knew Levi Stone as *captain of artificers*; Stone lived in his father's family

eighteen months; knows he was appointed captain in March, 1777, and served in that capacity at Danbury, Connecticut, from two to three years; he had thirty or forty men under him, and that said company was on the continental establishment.

Eli Wildman swears that he knew Captain Levi Stone in the revolutionary war; that in the spring of 1777 he was commissioned captain of artificers, had a number of men under his command, and served, he should think, more than *two years as captain* on the continental establishment.

Joel W. Church, a pensioner under act of 1818, swears that he knew Captain Levi Stone during the war of the revolution; said Stone was an apprentice to his (deponent's) father. That he served six months in the years 1777 and 1778, respectively, as an artificer under said Stone, and his residence, during the war, was in sight of the artificer's shop; and he knows that said Stone was captain of the artificer corps from March, 1777, to August, 1779. That he had thirty or forty artificers under his command; that the corps was under the quartermaster's department; that said company was raised by said Captain Stone, under the directions of Major Wood, quartermaster general. That he worked on the anchor chains for the main (chevaux-de-frise) which was strung across the Hudson river at West Point. We were all privates under Captain Stone, and in August, 1779, I left Danbury, and went into Colonel Baldwin's regiment. Accompanying these are various extracts from documents in the Connecticut Historical Society, from John Wood, assistant quartermaster general, at Danbury, Connecticut, and Colonel Hugh Hughes, running from March, 1777, to May, 1778, in which reference is made to the materials used at Danbury by this artificer corps.

The claimant has been granted a pension by the department of \$23 per annum, and also to his widow of the same amount, since the decease of said Captain Stone. The evidence of marriage being a certificate from the records of the town clerk where it was performed.

The committee, after a careful examination of the case, cannot withhold its surprise that to one so well fortified by proof of the most reliable character, viz: that of the personal knowledge of those who served in the same corps of artificers under Captain Stone, there could be a doubt as to the correctness of the allegation of the claimant, which is also corroborated by the known history of the times; and it is the more remarkable that the *soldiers who served under Captain Levi Stone should be pensioned for the very term of service which their captain is denied*. It is a well authenticated fact, that the records of the revolutionary service in many instances have been *entirely destroyed*, and at best these records were very meagre. Hence, it would be a denial of the bounty tendered the officer or soldier if his claim rested entirely upon record proof. The committee therefore report a bill.